



Fred and Bonnie Priebe's (Abe and Mary Lincoln) next historical event will take place on April 16 at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus. They have been invited to a Presidential Ball where they will get the chance to meet and mingle with other re-enactors, historians and lecturers.

Couple celebrates Lincoln marriage

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Today, not just anyone can say that they were the first president to have a beard while in the office, that they fought in the Civil War, or that they were the key factor in the abolishment of slavery.

But, people can still see Abraham Lincoln shopping at the local grocery store, driving

a car around town, or eating dinner in an area restaurant. They can shake his hand, have a conversation about the latest in sports, or even live next door to his authentic log cabin because even in the year 2005-Lincoln is still very much alive, in Fred Priebe, a Van Buren Township resident.

Priebe, a historian and lecturer, said his presidential journey began in the 1970s

when facial hair was considered popular.

"At the time I grew a mustache and beard, but quickly realized that a mustache gets in the way of eating and is itchy, so I shaved it off but kept the beard," he said. "It was then that people started making Abraham Lincoln references."

See **Lincolns**, page 3

New airport parking system could help city

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A new airport parking system may put some extra money into the hands of the city through improved utilization by fliers.

The system – which for the first time will allow fliers to use their credit cards to pay for parking at all airport-owned lots – will drastically cut down on the time fliers spend in line waiting to park, said Michael Conway, a spokesman for Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

"Convenience for people is the main reason this system was installed," he said. "It might improve traffic in the lots, but our goal is to make sure people are served well by the new system. We think it will be easier to use – and it will cut down on the lines. Cash flow will move more effectively throughout the system."

The City of Romulus – which is facing the same budget constraints as many other area municipalities – shares a portion of the tax generated by all parking at the airport with Wayne County and the state. Last fiscal year, about \$1.5 million dollars was generated for the city. Even still, the city had to trim \$185,000 from its 2004-05 budget, which is relatively small compared to other municipalities.

Ascom Transportation System Inc. will install the new system. It will provide turn-key parking access and revenue control system at Detroit Metro Airport for the McNamara and Blue Deck parking structures and all surface paid parking lots, Conway said.

The system includes software and full installation and integration of the complete software system, plus complete network setup and configuration needed to link all paid parking facilities to the system. The new system will allow the airport to consolidate parking operations into one system, Conway said.

Conway said he's not sure what increased usage of the lots due to the new system will mean for Romulus, but said it's possible that the system could encourage more people to park. He said the real benefit for the city would come when more people start traveling. Some city officials consider the tax from airport parking a boon for the city that has helped maintain city services and avoid layoffs and other cuts during a budget crunch that seems to get worse each year.

The new system at Metro operates on a ticketless platform that allows visitors to pay when the exit the system with a credit

See **Parking**, page 3

Operation Clean Sweep volunteers pick up streets

The days of dirt or clutter on the city streets in Romulus are about to come to an end.

The second annual city Clean Sweep event is rolling into town on Saturday, May 21. And, as usual, the city is looking for volunteers to help clean up areas of the city in disarray and plant some flowers in the downtown area, said Kathleen Trent, a spokeswoman for Romulus.

"They've done this for a few years now and it's very successful for the city," she said. "Councilman Leroy Burcroff organizes the event. It's a chance for people to perform some tasks that might not get done otherwise."

Clean Sweeps take place throughout Michigan and have become a staple that ushers in the spring season. The program was created by the state to get residents involved in helping to

*They've done this
for a few years now
and it's very successful
for the city.*

LeRoy Burcroff

clean up areas in their communities and to promote community activism.

Armies of volunteers are normally dispatched from Romulus City Hall at 11111 Wayne Road to areas of the city that have been designated as needing work, Trent said. Refreshments will be served before the groups hit the streets. Then, groups of people will work from 9 a.m. until they

See **Sweep**, page 3

All city property values hiked by 'fresh look'

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Image is everything.

At least – as far as communities are concerned – it's a big thing. It's one of the things officials in the City of Romulus learned when the results of the 2-year-old "Operation Fresh Look" campaign were tallied.

The campaign was started by Mayor Alan Lambert in 2002 to help clean up blighted areas in the City of Romulus to help lure new business and housing developments to the city. Since then, about 120 dilapidated structures have been torn down within city borders, Lambert said.

"I think people got sick of looking at them as they drove around – I know I got sick of looking at them," he said. "And if I

were a builder, I don't think I would build anywhere near some of the old structures we had in the city.

"When I ran for mayor, I knew I had to make blighted areas an issue," Lambert said.

Tim Keyes, city economic development director, said the progress of the campaign has helped spur development in areas that the city could not interest anyone in before.

"This has really helped us because the blight was bringing property values down for everyone else," he said.

Some of the areas that attracted developers where a blighted structure was removed include a parcel of land near Wabash and Huron roads, where an old office building was torn down to make way for a new commercial devel-

opment. Another parcel of land in the downtown area of the city is also receiving sealed bids for a potential condominium development, Lambert said.

Councilman Michael Prybyla has been a member of the council since 1993, and said blighted buildings represented a major drain on the city.

"We're glad the administration is moving so aggressively on getting rid of these structures," he said. "We used to get quite a few complaints about them."

Most of the properties that are on city demolition list are tax reverted properties, but occasionally, an owner will step forward with a plan to refurbish a building.

"Honestly, most of them are

See **Fresh**, page 3

Seniors celebrate spring with annual fashion show

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Belleville seniors have found the perfect solution to beat the winter blues and usher in the spring season: showcase the newest colors, styles and fashions on the market.

Last week, more than 100 people came to the September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township to witness the latest fashion trends during their third annual spring fashion show. This year, the theme was the glamorous side

of the big band era, according to Sarah Scherdt, senior coordinator at the center. "The show is completely for fun and to get rid of the winter blues," she said.

"We just wanted everyone to enjoy the clothes, eat food, laugh and have a great time."

With the help of Sears in Westland, 12 seniors from the center volunteered their time and effort to make the clothes come alive on the runway. The participants—Cornell Anton, Arlillian Bennett, Flo Britt, Jim Britt, Sarah Brown, Ken Cloutier, Judy Hill, Charles Hutchison,

John Prentice, Gloria Richards, John Sherry, and Helen Wylie—each modeled two different outfits: casual wear and evening wear.

"We now have about 1,600 members at the center, and we try to make it theirs as much as we can, so this is just another activity we like to do. It was something we started years ago for fun to beat the winter blahs," said Linda Combs, director of the center.

For models like Cornell Anton, it was hard not to smile. He distributed yellow roses to the crowd, and his wife,

Charlotte, as he made his way down the catwalk. He said he always tries to have unusual surprises for her. This time he incorporated it into the show.

"I always remember our anniversary with a yellow rose," said Anton.

Ten years ago, he gave a yellow rose to Charlotte at the San Francisco airport. It was the first time they had seen each other in 47 years, he said.

"I forgot to give her one on the anniversary this year, so I did it in the fashion show. I always like to do special things like that for her," he said.



Flo Britt modeled the perfect outfit to wear to all the upcoming spring and summer garden weddings and parties: a powder blue two-piece gown with a red hat.



John Prentice showed how to liven up a semi-formal suit by incorporating a purple dress shirt and a multi-colored patterned tie.



Members of the September Days Senior Center in Van Buren Township modeled the latest fashion trends last week during their third annual spring fashion show. This year, the theme was the big band era.

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A chat with... Bob Brown

Scott Spielman
Editor

It's been six months since Bob Brown has taken over as interim director of The Senior Alliance (TSA), an area agency on aging based in Wayne County.

The time has flown, the work has been plentiful, but Brown said things are gradually turning around at the organization, which provides services to senior citizens throughout Wayne County. In fact, he said he's now able to relax – a little bit.

"I'm only just taking my first weekend off in months," he said.

Brown took over the organization last year, when financial problems threatened to dissolve it. Since then he's worked diligently to cut costs – by reevaluating virtually every incoming bill from phone service to health care – to ensure the long-term viability of the organization.

Brown, a former external affairs director for SBC, said the decision to help out the organization was an easy one to make. Public service is in his blood, he said – he's helped out organizations like the Goodfellows for 40 years, been a boy scout a city councilman in Dearborn Heights and a state representative from 1996-2002.

His role before he took on the interim role at helped prepare him, too, he said.

"I headed up a lot of projects that were in trouble," he said. "I brought them back on schedule and under budget."

He's done that with TSA, too. During his six months in charge, he's helped reduce spending at the organization by renegotiating contracts, reducing the amount of office space – and therefore, rent – and switched health care ser-



Bob Brown

What's the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you?

If you don't change, you're dead. Nobody's wrong, they just have a different opinion. My mom never gave me any advice – she just showed me.

What are your hobbies?

SCUBA diving, sports – I play baseball, hockey coach football, soccer, baseball and hockey. I have a pilot's license.

What's your favorite kind of music?

Classic rock, country, dance music – and not the BeeGees.

Favorite song?

Turn the Page, by Bob Seger. It has a story in there that's hidden: don't judge a book by its cover.

What are you most proud of?

Raising four boys, returning 8,000 calls to constituents when I was a state representative, and helping save The Senior Alliance.

What's your favorite television show?

I don't watch much TV.

What's the last book you read?

I read a lot of technical manuals. Also, The World's Greatest Salesman.

What's your favorite movie?

The Lord of the Rings; you've got to watch the whole series.

What don't most people know about you?

Sometimes I cry. It must be middle age.

vices for employees, providing the same services with less expense.

He's also taken a hard look at the bottom line, to ensure the organization doesn't stretch itself too thin by providing more services than it can afford to.

"I have a budget given to me by the state," he said. "I look at and see how many services I can deliver without exceeding that."

"I don't make cuts to senior services, I deliver them," he added. "The state and federal government tell me how much money I have to do that."

It's been an educational experience, too, he said, both for himself and the general public. The Senior Alliance is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, but many people didn't know

exactly what services it provides. There are many, but the most recognizable one is the Meals on Wheels program, he said. The organization also helps senior citizens remain independent for as long as possible, providing support services to help keep them in their homes and out of assisted living facilities. It's caused him to ponder a new slogan for the group, one similar to that of the Goodfellows annual mantra of No Child Without a Christmas: No Senior Without a Home or Food.

He said exposure to the organization and what it does will help with another state mandate: to bring in more donations.

"We've got to go out to the communities and get them to participate," he said.

Lincolns - First couple fascination

FROM PAGE 1

That reference turned into a job at Greenfield Village, several Civil War reenactments, library and museum presentations, ballroom dances and eventually, a 10-year long career of portraying the president.

"He has always been my favorite president, but when I decided to do this full-time, I realized that Lincoln was really a funny guy," said Priebe.

Before Priebe became Lincoln, he was a schoolteacher and, even though he's not in the classroom, he said he still gets to teach.

"In my program I tell them things that you won't find in history books, like his character, honesty and integrity. The kids love it," said Priebe.

To get the character just right, Priebe owns more than 150 books on Lincoln and more than 200 books on the Civil War. And once he's in character, he said that he rarely steps out.

"If I'm in a public place and modern clothes, then I don't get into character, but once I put the Lincoln clothes on, I rarely step out because when people approach me they expect Abraham Lincoln," he said. "You have to emotionally and physically feel like you are him or else you fail."

But what Lincoln reenactment would be complete without Mary Lincoln?

That's why Fred's wife, Bonnie, joined the act. She makes replicas of the period clothing for the couple to wear to their numerous reenactment events. Each dress is based from dresses in the Godey's Lady book and can take up to a year to make, she said.

"So far I have four day dresses and four evening dresses. Fred started with one suit and then we built his collection from there," said Bonnie Priebe. "Even after 10 years of doing this I'm still flabbergasted when I go to the balls and see all the other clothes people are wearing."

"The longer you do it, the more you get pulled to it, the more you learn and the more clothes you have to make," Fred Priebe added.

At the end of the day the thing that keeps them going, they said, is their love for the country. "I love history and I want people to understand what our country has been through in the past," said Bonnie Priebe.

"Through all the study and contacts I've gained a deeper appreciation for the past and what people before us did to make the country great," said Fred Priebe. "That's the everyday lives of people, whether it's 1760 or 2005."

After 10 years of walking in Abraham Lincoln's boots, Priebe said he has never been to the White House.

Even after 10 years of doing this I'm still flabbergasted when I go to the balls and see all the other clothes people are wearing.

Sweep - Volunteers needed

FROM PAGE 1

complete pre-identified tasks.

A flower planting in the downtown district also takes place, Trent said.

The Clean Sweep is co-sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The program began in 1987 as a way to clean up unwanted pesticides that were destroying the environment. But

the concept of beautification was introduced, and municipalities started to have their own Clean Sweeps to address their local needs.

Burcroff was unavailable for comment, and it is unclear where the city will focus the clean-up efforts this year.

The city is looking for volunteers right up until the day of the event. For more information, call Mayor Alan Lambert's office at (734) 942-7571.

Parking - System easier for fliers

FROM PAGE 1

card – which avoids the need to wait for an attendant to accept payment. Other features include a state-of-the-art vehicle license plate recognition and inventory component, capable of capturing digital images of license plates. That system will help the airport reduce errors in calculating how much a person owes by recording the time of entrance and exit

from the lot or structure, Conway said.

Federal grant funds are being pursued to assist in funding expansion of the license plate recognition and inventory portion of the system. Ascom will also provide the Wayne County Airport Authority with routine and emergency maintenance services for a one-year period from the date the system is installed.

to have somebody fix them up instead of going through the expense of tearing them down."

The list of properties keeps getting longer, Lambert said.

"We're just going to keep going until the problem is solved and it's no longer an issue," he said.



Looking to next season

The Romulus Eagles put up a valiant effort last week when they faced off with Holt in East Lansing. But the Eagles were not able to overcome their competitors and lost the State Championship 65-62. Here Romulus Basketball Coach Nate Oats holds onto the 2005 Class A Runner-Up trophy after a ceremony that honored the team spirit of both teams. The Eagles were underdogs for the entire year, but successfully battled back many skilled teams all season. For the complete story, see page 11.

Fresh

FROM PAGE 1

tax-reverted - the others are very few," Lambert said. "But it's a good thing when (the owners) do come forward because its better

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 7, 2005 IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL,
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Debbie Romak.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.
Excused: Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-079

Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held February 28, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-080

3A. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to grant a No-Fee permit to the Moslem Shriners to solicit donations in the City of Romulus to benefit Shriners Hospitals for children on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 9, 10, and 11, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-081

3B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to grant a request for Aztec Manufacturing Corporation, 15378 Oakwood Drive, Romulus, Michigan, 48174, to schedule a public hearing for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate on April 4, 2005, 7:00 p.m. in Romulus City Hall Council Chamber, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-082

3C. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth with concurrence with the Romulus Police Department and the Romulus Fire Department, grant a No-Fee Permit to the Romulus Christian Ministerial Association for their Annual Good Friday March to be held on Friday, March 25, 2005, beginning at 11:30 a.m., starting at the Historical Park, march west on Goddard Road to The Wesleyan Church at Five Points.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-083

4A1. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Terry Buckley.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to accept the Chairman’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-084

5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with the Administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to sign the City of Taylor Firearms Range Agreement for the current year.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-085

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to adopt the adjusted fee schedule for the City of Romulus Police Department Records Bureau as recommended by Public Safety Director, Charles Kirby as follows:

	Current	Increase
Copies of Reports (up to 3 pages)	\$4.00	\$6.00
Each Additional Page	\$.50	\$.50
Archived Reports (2 years or older)	\$6.00	\$8.00
Archived Off Site (Pre 1995)	\$65.00	\$65.00
Fingerprinting (Romulus Residents Only)	\$6.00	\$8.00
CCW Fingerprints (Romulus Residents Only)	\$15.00	\$15.00

Clearance Letters (Romulus Residents Only)	\$3.00	\$5.00
Vehicle VIN Inspections	\$5.00	\$8.00

Above fees are waived for senior citizens (65 and older)

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-086

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-19:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Senior Center Construction Fund				
Revenues				
404-0000-410.6951	Bond Proceeds	0	3,325,245	3,325,245
404-000-410.69-94	Transfer In-DDA	0	43,638	43,638
404-0000-430.66-50	Investment Interest	0	30,000	30,000
Expenditures				
404-5150-751.90-10	Project Costs	0	3,305,245	3,305,245
404-5150-751.90-11	Issuance Costs	0	50,000	50,000
404-5150-751.78-04	Interest Expense	0	43,638	43,638

To recognize revenue and expenditure accounts related to the Senior Center Construction Project Fund.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-087

5D. Motion by Wadworth, supported by Miller to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-20:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
General Fund				
Revenues				
101-4130-512.54-48	Clean Michigan-revenue	0	1,800,000	1,800,000
Expenditures				
101-4130-741.85-48	Clean Michigan-expenditure	0	1,800,000	1,800,000

To recognize revenue and expenditure accounts related to the Clean Michigan Initiative.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-088

5E. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 04/05-21:

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures				
101-1320-713.73-03	Election Supplies	12,827	2,500	15,327
101-1320-713.74-62	Printing & Publications	4,000	1,800	5,800
101-1320-713.77-30	Contractual Services	27,673	8,000	35,673
101-1320-713.80-10	Capital Outlay	0	17,000	17,000
Revenues				
101-1320-511.68-10	Election Reimbursement	0	12,300	12,300
Fund Balance				
101-0000-309.00-00	Fund Balance	AVAILABLE 1,230,440	APPROPRIATE (17,000)	BALANCE 1,213,440

To appropriate funds for 2005 School Election & (3) ES&S Tabulators and (1) Omni Drive Computer.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-089

6A1. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 04/05-15,16,17 and 18, introduced at the meeting held February 28, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-090

6A2. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Appendix B, Chapter 38, of the Romulus Employees Pension Plan introduced at the meeting held February 28, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-091

6A3. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadworth to schedule a Public Hearing to hear comments on the expansion of the Romulus Historical in order to apply for the new 2005 MNRTF Recreation Grant for March 28, 2005 at 6:45 p.m., to be held in the City Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak,
Continued on page 5

Schools consider alternative learning program

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Van Buren Public Schools administrators and school board members will make a decision soon regarding a district managed alternative education facility.

Currently, the district sends about 63 alternative education students to Romulus, which does not sit well with Kevin Kelly, principal at Belleville High School, who contends that Belleville students should be educated in Belleville.

"I hope that no one from Romulus takes this idea as we are criticizing the Romulus program, but the shortcoming is that the program is in Romulus," he said. "It's nothing against them or their program, but we want to tailor ours for Belleville students."

Keith Johnston, school board treasurer, could not agree more. He said the only way to make the high school a premier one is to have an alternative education program.

"We've expelled students and then Romulus couldn't take them because of overcrowding issues, which means that there are kids that aren't going to school. That's no good," he said. "There are some kids who are too disruptive in schools, or can't learn in the regular environment, but if they don't want to learn in the high school we're going to find a new place for them. We're not just going to put them in school

and forget about them. We want it to work and we want them to learn."

"The program for our students would be unique because the students graduating from Belleville tend to go into vocational education," added Kelly. "We've also seen a significant increase in the graduating rate, which is a testament to the teachers in the district, but there will always be students that need more time for studying, or a different environment for learning. It's not always behavioral problems. It's also academic."

Romulus Community Schools Superintendent Joel Carr said he did not want to speculate on the effect of the plan until the Van Buren School Board makes a decision.

"I really don't want to comment about that because we don't know if it's going to move forward, and I haven't talked to their superintendent yet," he said. "But we have a lot of success with our program – we have many kids from other districts that come to our program."

In total, the Romulus alternative program educates about 200 students per year, Carr said. Of those students, about half live in other districts and attend the program through the statewide Schools of Choice ini-

tiative. A large number of those students are from the Van Buren district, he said.

If the Van Buren plan moves forward, it could cut into Romulus Community Schools bottom line because the state foundation grant – the amount of money a district gets from the state to educate a child – follows the student. Still, Carr is confident that the district can attract students from other districts.

"We may lose a little money or a lot, but we think there is a great demand for our program," he said. "We've been at this since the 1970s, and our program is very, very good at helping these students make something of their lives. We have a very understanding staff there. We're very proud of (the program)."

Van Buren school officials feel confident that if they start their own program, they will have enough resources to be operational by the 2005-2006 school year. Pete Lazaroff, superintendent for the district, has stated before that they will be able to fund it as well.

"We've had numerous discussions on our own program and none of us are concentrating on it as a financial tool. It has to do with serving the population and doing it the best we can locally," said Kelly.

"Finances aren't the major drive for doing it, but it will help. We're struggling financially and we need to find more ways to create revenue," added Johnston.

Plans could include hosting the alternative education program at Elwell Elementary, where the district has the fewest students. The elementary students would then be dispersed to other district schools, Johnston said.

"Elementary enrollment has been declining and it has been said that once we get around 2500, we have to close an elementary school. We are getting close to that," he said.

Kelly said that the administration will continue to look at staffing levels, a master schedule and the feasibility for the possible alternative education program.

Molly Tippen contributed to this article
Next week, The Belleville Enterprise will publish the second part of the alternative education story.

“Finance aren't the major drive for doing it, but it will help.”
Keith Johnston

Belleville museum temporarily closed

The Belleville Area Museum will be closed indefinitely; therefore, the monthly historical society meeting scheduled for today will not take place.

Director Diane Wilson broke her ankle last month and will not be able to operate the museum until further notice.

In the meantime, Virg Stoltz, archivist at the museum, will open the museum on an appointment only basis. Everyone must call in advance to schedule an appointment.

For more information on the museum closing, or to schedule an appointment, contact Sharry Budd at Van Buren Township at 734-699-8900.

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Please take Notice that the regular school election of the school district will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the regular school election to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 is Monday, April 4, 2005. Persons registering after 4:00 in the evening on Monday, April 4, 2005 are not eligible to vote at the regular school election.

TERRI BENNETT Canton Township	JUDI DUDZINSKI Clerk Dearborn Heights Clerk	JACQUELYN BEAUDRY Inkster City Clerk
LINDA CHOATE Romulus City Clerk	MARY CARNEY Wayne City Clerk	EILEEN DeHART Westland City Clerk

Publish: March 24, 2005
March 31, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified contractors for the following items.

- Bid 04106 19 New Cable Department Equipment - Opening 2pm, April 6, 2005
- Bid 04/05-23 Underbody Scraper Blades for DPW - Opening 2pm, March 29, 2005
- Bid 04/05-27 Jerseys and T-shirts for Recreation Dept. - Opening 2pm, April 5, 2005

- (1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Coordinator, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by Emailing: Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE SEALED AND CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE BID NUMBER AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED TO:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE
BID NAME & #
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus Michigan, 48174

The City of Romulus reserves right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part and to waive any informalities therein.

Publish: March 24, 2005

Continued on from page 4

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes – Burcroff, Crova, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays – None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 7, 2005

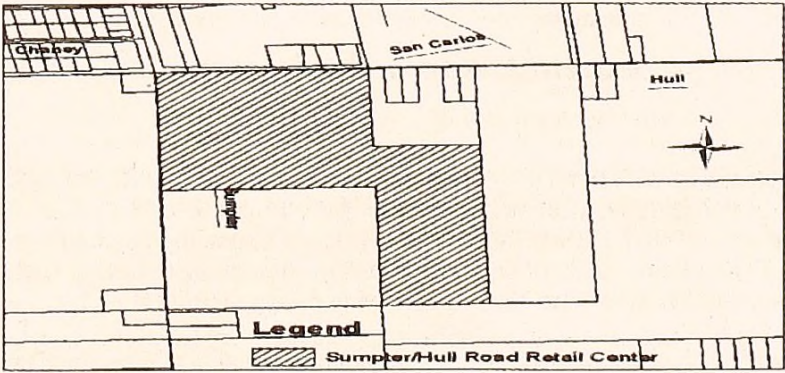
Linda R. Choate
City Clerk

Publish: March 24, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday April 13, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, by rezoning parcel numbers V-125-83-134-99-0002-703. This property is located on the southeast side of Sumpter and Hull Roads. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting to rezone from AG-Agricultural and Estate to C-1 General Business. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., April 13, 2005 the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 24, 2005
April 7, 2005

OBITUARIES

HIGGINS, Rick

Rick Higgins, 51, a life long resident of the Belleville, Romulus area, died March 10.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Tina Elam of Carleton; his son, Rick (Crystal Smith) Higgins of Westland; brothers, Timmy Higgins of Westland, Frank and JoJo (Jamie) Higgins, all of Belleville; a sister, Kathyeen Bentley; his dear friend Wiley "Dwayne" Montgomery of Romulus; his companion, Linda Mahey of Milan, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Higgins was a self-employed carpenter.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

TOMLIN, Samuel

Samuel Arthur Tomlin, 89, a 52-year resident of Van Buren Township, died March 11.

Among his survivors are his children, Betty (Don) Smith of Columbus, OH, Henry (Nancy) Tomlin of Trenton, Jane (Bill) McVey of Ohio, Roy Tomlin of Florida, Ruby Erhart of Belleville and John Tomlin of Belleville; 25 grandchildren, and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Tomlin served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

A double funeral service, celebrating the life of Mr. Tomlin and his wife, Susie (McGinnis) Tomlin, who died March 15, was at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with Pastor Richard Brennan officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

TOMLIN, Susie

Susie Tomlin, 82, of Belleville, died March 15, three days after her husband of 60 years, Samuel.

Among her survivors are her children, Betty (Don) Smith of Columbus, Ohio, Henry (Nancy) Tomlin of Trenton, Jane (Bill) McVey of Ohio, Troy Tomlin of Florida and Ruby Erhart and John Tomlin, both of Belleville; brothers, Henry J. McGinnis of Brownstown Township and William McGinnis of Ypsilanti; 25 grandchildren, and many great-and great-great-grandchildren.

A double funeral service, celebrating the life of Mrs. Tomlin and her husband, was at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with Pastor Richard Brennan officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

LAMBERT, Troye

Troye Clyde Lambert, 86, of Ypsilanti, died March 12.

Among his survivors are his sons, Chris (Vicki) Lambert of Ypsilanti and Craig (Pam) Lambert of Dexter; grandchildren, Melissa (Paul) Williams, Tracy (Jeremy) Hilobuk, Kevin Lambert, Eddie Lambert, Nicole (Reid) McGuire, Cassandra Lambert, Lindsey Vershum and Sarah Lambert, and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Lambert served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He was a member of the Belleville Presbyterian Church and was a former member of the Masons.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with the Rev. Marjorie Longwood officiating.

Interment was at Hamilton Township Cemetery in Harrison.

WILKEWITZ, Esther

Esther F. Wilkewitz, 81, of Romulus, died March 15.

Among her survivors are her husband, Harold Wilkewitz; sons, Dale (Janet) Wilkewitz of New Boston and Gerald Wilkewitz of Romulus, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with Don Belcher of Sunset Church of Christ in Taylor officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia.

CZINSKI, Bernard

Bernard Alexander Czinski, 49, of Augusta Township, formerly of Westland, died March 15.

Among his survivors is his wife of nearly 22 years, Cynthia Marie (Bundy); brothers, William (Ruth Ann) Czinski of Cement City and Stanley (Lori) Czinski of Grosse Ile, and sisters, Pauline (Daniel) Malecki of Gainesville, Fla., Rose Mary Cannella of Tecumseh and Carol (Daniel) Godfrey of

Whitmore Lake.

Mr. Czinski attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Belleville.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with pastor James A. Frey officiating.

Interment was at St. Joseph Cemetery in Whittaker.

POET, Kathryn

Kathryn Virginia Poet, 93, of New Boston, died March 15.

Among her survivors are her children, Marlene (Richard) Gamble of Belleville, Thomas (Carol) Poet of Holland, Mich., Ruth Ann (John) Pinter of Litchfield and Linda (Michael) Raker of Round Mountain, Nev.; a sister, Carolyn (Donald) Hahn of Dearborn; seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

CITY OF ROMULUS APPENDIX B CHAPTER 38 ROMULUS EMPLOYESS PENSION PLAN

An Ordinance to amend the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances Chapter 38 Romulus Employee Pension Plan.

THE CITY OF ROMULUS ORDAINS:

- Section 1:

Short Title

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the Ordinance Amendment to Reduce the Involuntary Cast-Out Amount under the Amended Romulus Employee Pension Plan.
- Section 2:

Effective March 28, 2005, section 38.5.5(c) shall be amended by adding a sentence to the end of the subsection to read as follow:

Effective March 28, 2005, the involuntary \$5,000 cash out limit referenced in this subparagraph (c) shall be reduced to \$1,000.
- Section 3:

Repealer

All ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.
- Section 4:

Savings

All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they were commenced.
- Section 5:

Severability

Should any clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection or section of this Article be declared void or otherwise invalid, for any reason, by any court, such declaration shall not affect any portion of this Article other than the part specifically declared to be void.
- Section 6:

Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication in the official newspaper.

I, Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of an ordinance duly adopted by the Romulus City Council at its regular meeting held on the 7th day of March, 2005.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Alan R. Lambert,
Mayor City of Romulus

Within forty-five (45) days after the publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance continuing in effect. Said petition shall contain the text of such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six percent (6%) of the registered electors registered at the last preceding election at which a Mayor of the City was elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby by suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

Introduced: February 28, 2005
Adopted: March 7, 2005
Publish: March 24, 2005

Romulus Community Schools NOTICE

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005.

To the qualified Electors of the Romulus Community School District, County of Wayne, State of Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that, in conformity with the "Michigan Election Laws," I, the undersigned City Clerk, will upon any day EXCEPT Sunday, a legal holiday, and the day of any regular or special election, shall receive for registration the name of any resident not registered, who may APPLY for such registration EXCEPT during the time intervening between the CLOSE of Registration for the Annual School Election and the day of such election.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that voter registrations will be taken at any Secretary of State branch office or, in the Office of the City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485 between the hours of:

Monday thru Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AND THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Monday, April 4, 2005 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For the purpose of REVIEWING THE REGISTRATION LIST AND REGISTERING such of the qualified electors that shall properly apply therefor, the name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the Romulus Community School District, at the time of registration, and entitled under the Constitution, if remaking such resident, to vote at the next election shall be entered in the registration book.

The following vacancies for member of the Board of Education will be voted upon in the Romulus Community School District:

TWO (2) FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS

This Notice is given by order of the Board of Education of Romulus Community Schools, County of Wayne, Michigan.

Linda Choate CMC,
City Clerk of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: March 24, 2005
March 31, 2005

OPINION

One for the good guys

Municipal officials throughout the State of Michigan most likely breathed a sigh of relief this week, when a proposal to severely cut the Community Development Block Grant budget headed toward a hopeful demise.

The program had been jeopardized by the proposed federal budget, which combined it with 17 other government programs and moved it from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Department of Commerce. The proposal jeopardized programs for senior citizens and low-to-moderate income areas directly, and everyone indirectly because funding for those programs – if they were continued – would have had to come from elsewhere.

It now looks like the program – and the majority of its funding – will remain with HUD. It's not official yet; it's cleared the U.S. Senate, but still needs to make its way through the U.S. House, but it's clearly a step in the right direction.

This is a sign that cooperation between governments and residents can truly make a difference. Kudos should also be thrown out to U.S. Rep Thaddeus McCotter, who earned praised from Jim Nussle (R-Iowa), chair of the Budget Committee, for his work to save these vital programs.

With the current state of the economy, however, this is most likely just the first battle in an on-going war to preserve programs like these from the federal budget ax. Money is needed everywhere, after all. It's the duty of our local elected officials to keep tracking this and other issues that might fall under the radar, so to speak, and it's our duty, as citizens, to bring up a public outcry if and when they do.

This is a good start.

All the live long day

Once upon a time, the railroads were the only way of moving things quickly across the country.

There are other ways to do it now, of course, but railroads remain a crucial part of interstate commerce, an efficient way of moving goods.

But lately it seems like they've done little but hold things up – as far as small, local communities are concerned.

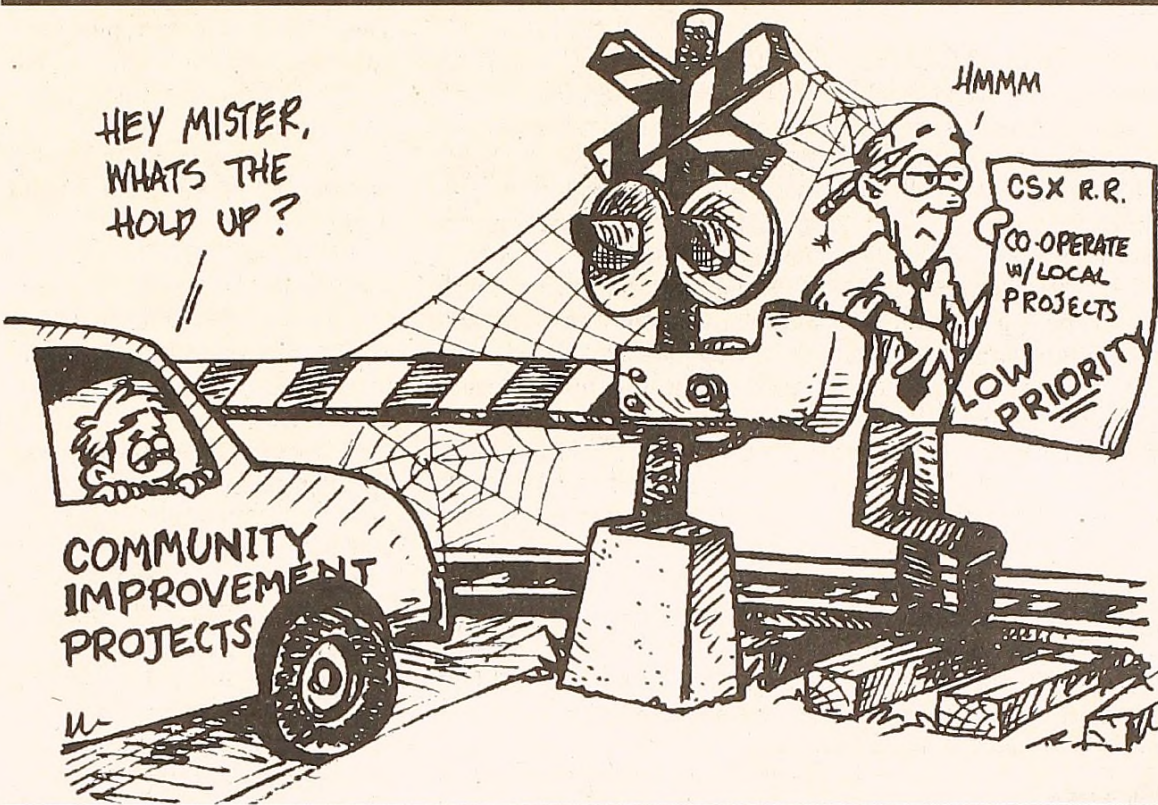
Whether it's a long line of cars waiting for a slow-moving or seemingly parked train or something like the long-overdue and much discussed Sheldon Road Underpass project in Plymouth and Plymouth Township the railroads can be virtually counted on to put a delay in one thing or another.

The most recent project is a proposed bike path between Northville Township and the City of Northville. The path would meander from Six Mile Road to Seven Mile and ultimately Griswold Street along Northville Road. It would connect the two municipalities, giving bikers or pedestrians clear access to downtown Northville. It would strengthen the already solid bond between the two and provide an extended passive recreational amenity the whole community can enjoy.

It's a cooperative venture between the two municipalities, along with Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) – which recently provided a \$350,000 grant for the project – but not, evidently CSX Railroad.

The project has been in the works for a while, now, and the layout is all but set in asphalt. The stickler seems to be a bit of the pathway that would run parallel to the railroad line between Seven Mile Road and Griswold – in the railroad right of way. Railroad officials have been reluctant to allow that to happen, according to the local folks, and that's caused them to look at other alternatives. The other alternatives, of course, aren't as desirable as the first – if they were, they would have

See **Rails**, page 7



Blooming political ambition

I've often thought that Westland City Council meetings would provide a good bit of preparation for anyone who wants to attend law school.

They tend to be a bit tedious, but that's not the reason. Tedium is everywhere these days. This could be, in fact, the Age of Tedium.

The reason is because members of the Westland City Council often have to present a detailed case for every decision they make – whether it's a yes vote or a no vote. I suspect that's because every decision they make – positive or negative – has the potential to be used against them during their next election campaign, a sort of political version of the Miranda Rights.

Take Monday night, for instance.

The issue was to allocate funding for 434 Calgary Carpet Junipers to be planted, along with 3 inches of mulch, near city hall, which has looked like a construction zone for nearly as long as my age-shortened memory can recall.

It was a budgeted item from a previously approved plan. The low bidder, Crimboli Nursery, quoted a price less than half of the high bidder and \$700 less

than his next highest competitor. The \$9,105 expense was on the consent calendar, the typical repository for items worthy of the rubber stamp.

Not so.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt moved it from there to the regular agenda and when it came up, asked for support to cut the landscaping – and therefore, the cost – in half.

She didn't find support, and then members of the council had to defend themselves for apparently not taking a cost-cutting move during a time when the city is facing an extremely tight budget.

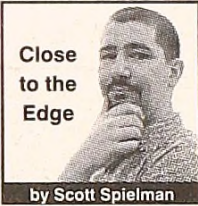
Their reasons were valid, too. It was a previously discussed plan, the bid specifications were probably pretty specific – cutting the number of plants would not necessarily relate to dividing the

cost of the project by two, considering potential volume discounts and all that. They also didn't know what the reduction in landscaping would look like.

I think Councilman Mike Kehrer pointed out the best reason for going ahead with the expert's recommendation, though. City hall is often the first official glimpse people that want to do business with the city – potential developers or what have you – get. That impression hasn't exactly been the best for some time, now. The building needs more of an update than the city can afford right now – a situation that they are not facing alone; there's been a plan to update Plymouth City Hall that has been put on the backburner for years because there's no money to move on it.

The best city officials can do is finish off the project that started last year and make it look as good as possible. I like the fact that the council is willing to look at every budget item and evaluate it, but there are times when it's OK to agree with the experts and do things right the first time around.

The image of the city is worth the extra money.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

The best city officials can do is finish off the project that started last year and make it look as good as possible.

LETTERS

Senator protests possible airport expansion

To the editor;

I write today with urgency. Governor Granholm's proposed Capital Outlay budget does not protect the home values we together have long fought for. Her budget does not contain language needed to prevent expansion of Willow Run Airport. Willow Run expansion is really what we are trying to stop now: Lengthening runways will force people to sell their homes and move, create more noise, and so on.

We've long opposed expansion

of Willow Run Airport. In fact, in 2002, I amended a bill to repeal Public Act 325 of 1994 that allowed creation of a 'tradeport' there. Under Michigan law, a 'tradeport' can no longer exist (PA 90 of 2002). But now someone can use a different term, or none, to accomplish the same end. Without a safeguard, home values are still at risk.

Since coming to Lansing, I've incorporated language like this into the budget bills:

From the appropriations contained in part 1 for airport improvement programs, no funds shall be allocated for any runway

extensions, taxiway extensions, or apron extensions at the Detroit-Willow Run airport. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that no state funds shall be expended to improve or repair the airport where the purpose of the improvement or repair is to expand the usage of the airport including, but not limited to, anything approximating a tradeport as that term is defined in the former international tradeport development authority act, former 1994 PA 325.

This has always won approval by my fellow legislators. The last

See **Letters**, page 7

JOURNAL

NEWSPAPERS

The Canton Journal • The Northville Journal • The Plymouth Journal
Publications of Willow Media, L.L.C.

The Canton Eagle • The Belleville Enterprise • The Inkster Ledger Star
The Romulus Roman • The Wayne Eagle • The Westland Eagle

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Phone 734-467-1900
for general business, advertising or editorial information.

Legislation may return election control to schools

Jason Carmel-Davis
Staff Writer

State Rep. John Stewart (R-Plymouth) has introduced legislation to allow school districts to conduct their own elections in February, May, August or November.

Earlier this year, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land determined that local governments should conduct school board elections. Under the new rule, the school districts are billed for the cost of the elections.

Schools would have to reimburse the municipalities for their work, which is expected to go far beyond the traditional cost of \$15,000. The costs to fund an election vary with each municipality. Canton Township spends about \$78,000 to have an election;

Plymouth Township, \$35,000; Northville Township, \$30,000 and the City of Plymouth \$15,000.

Stewart's legislation—House Bill 4471—would allow school districts to conduct regular and special elections by adopting a resolution approved by the school board and filed with the Secretary of State.

Plymouth Canton School Superintendent Jim Ryan said Stewart's measure shows some responsiveness within the legislature.

"Obviously I'm all for (the change)," he said. "I thought the legislature overreacted all along."

Ryan said Stewart's proposal makes more sense to him than the way the bill was adopted. Currently, the responsibility of operating the elections now rests

in the hands of the four municipalities and the respective clerks. They also have to purchase new voter registration cards, which will tell voters where their polling location is.

Ryan also said he is fearful that the cost of the election could triple.

"We'll just have to see how everything goes May 3," he said.

Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill said she thinks the proposed change is unnecessary.

"I never thought schools should run elections," she said. "I know a lot of people think it's a bad law, but I don't."

Massengill said she realizes it would be expensive for the district to have the municipalities run the election, and she understands that the Plymouth-Canton

district is looking to save money. She also said the district might be able to save more money if they changed their election cycle to meet with other elections in the communities the school district encompasses.

Plymouth-Canton School District Elections Clerk Elizabeth Adams said saving money is the biggest concern for the district. She also said the measure is a positive step.

"I realize (Stewart) is trying to do a good thing," Adams said. "I want to see control put back into the hands of the school district."

In the upcoming school balloting, Tom Wysocki, vice president of the Plymouth-Canton Community School Board, will seek re-election after his first four-year term on the board. His seat is the only one open this

year. Wysocki is opposed by Canton Township resident Emily Florence.

The deadline to register to vote in the May 3 Plymouth-Canton Community School District election is 5 p.m. Monday, April 4.

To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office or county, city or township clerk's office. Anyone planning to register with the respective county, city or township clerk's office must ascertain the days and hours that the clerk's office is open for registration.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 3. Voters will cast their ballots at four precincts—three at the Plymouth Cultural Center (precincts 1, 2 and 4), and one at Central Middle School (precinct 3).

Letters

FROM PAGE 7

time was in the 2003-04 budget; no capital outlay budget for this year's budget has yet been made, for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

The Governor's proposed budget, which can be found at www.michigan.gov/documents/Capital_Outlay_84254_7.pdf, does not contain this provision. I will fight to incorporate this language again to protect all the work we've done together over the years.

If this matter is still of concern

to you, please contact my Lansing office, so that your voice can be heard in the Capitol.

Very truly yours,
State Sen. Bruce Patterson
District 7 Room 505
Farnum building
Lansing, MI 48909
senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov

Rails

FROM PAGE 7

been a part of the discussion, all along.

Unfortunately, township and

city officials may have to take that route, because there is a time factor involved. The grant funds have to be used or they will be lost.

It's a shame that railroad officials seemingly believe they have earned the right to not be bothered by little projects like this; impact-

ed only by federal legislation, they can move their trains through the communities with little thought about what is on either side of the tracks. Local officials would do well to fully explore their other alternatives, to ensure this worthy project won't get derailed.

"Pic of the Week"



UPCOMING WEDDING?

...For a contemporary approach that captures both formal portraits and journalistic images, call Michael Reynolds

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734-254-9531

www.michaelreynoldsphotography.com

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Fred Grant

Inside Small Business

www.fredgrantcpa.com

Pick the best filing status

Understanding your filing status choices and selecting the one that is best for you can cut your tax bill. Your filing status determines your tax bracket. It also sets the income level at which you become ineligible for

certain tax benefits, such as deductible IRAs and the child tax credit.

Your filing status is determined by your marital status on the last day of the year. It's easy to determine whether you are married or single on the last day of the year or is it? What if you are widowed? What if you are married, but legally separated from your spouse?

You must choose from the following filing statuses: single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, or head of household. There may be more than one choice that could apply in your situation.

Let's compare the tax bill under each filing status for a taxpayer with \$40,000 of taxable income for 2004.

Filing Status Tax bill

Single \$6,744

Married filing jointly \$5,289

Married filing separately \$6,744

Head of household \$5,606

A single parent with a qualifying child could save \$1,138 by claiming head of household status rather than filing as single. A legally separated taxpayer also could save \$1,138 if he or she qualified to claim head of household status rather than choosing married filing separately status.

Selecting the correct filing status isn't always easy. You should consider both your tax situation and your personal situation before selecting a filing status on your return. If you have questions about which filing status is best for your circumstances, give us a call @ 734-455-1040.



Brian Mell, Financial Consultant
DFCU Financial
Canton Branch, through
CUSO Financial Services, L.P.

Financially SPEAKING

Q - I'm already contributing to a 401(k). Why should I consider a Roth IRA as part of my retirement planning?

A - If you have a 401(k), make sure you contribute at least up to what your employer matches. Then consider that while money in a 401(k) grows tax deferred, it's subject to tax when you make a withdrawal, even at the age of 59 1/2. With a Roth IRA, your money grows tax-free, and you don't pay taxes on a qualified withdrawal. Also, your 401(k) limits you to the funds offered through your employer. With a Roth IRA, you're not tied to a specific fund family. Each option has a contribution limit and your personal situation will determine how much you can afford to contribute to either plan. We can help you decide among your options. All DFCU Financial Partners Financial Consultants through our broker-dealer CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are Chartered Retirement Planning Counselors through the College of Financial Planning. They're located at each DFCU Financial branch and have the experience and all the necessary credentials to help you. For a complimentary consultation stop by or call us at 313.336.2700 or toll free at 888.336.2700 outside the local area. Or visit www.dfcufinancial.com.



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Listen to Fred Grant's radio show
"Inside Small Business" every weekend on
or call Fred at 734-455-1040



BOOKS

The Big Ocean

Children's book could offer more information and some better rhymes

The ocean is cool.
That's the conclusion that young Sally-Anne and her mother come to after a tour of The Big Blue – aided by mermaidish fins and an insatiable curiosity.
It's also the premise behind *The Big Ocean*, a children's book published by This New World Publishing in Tigard,

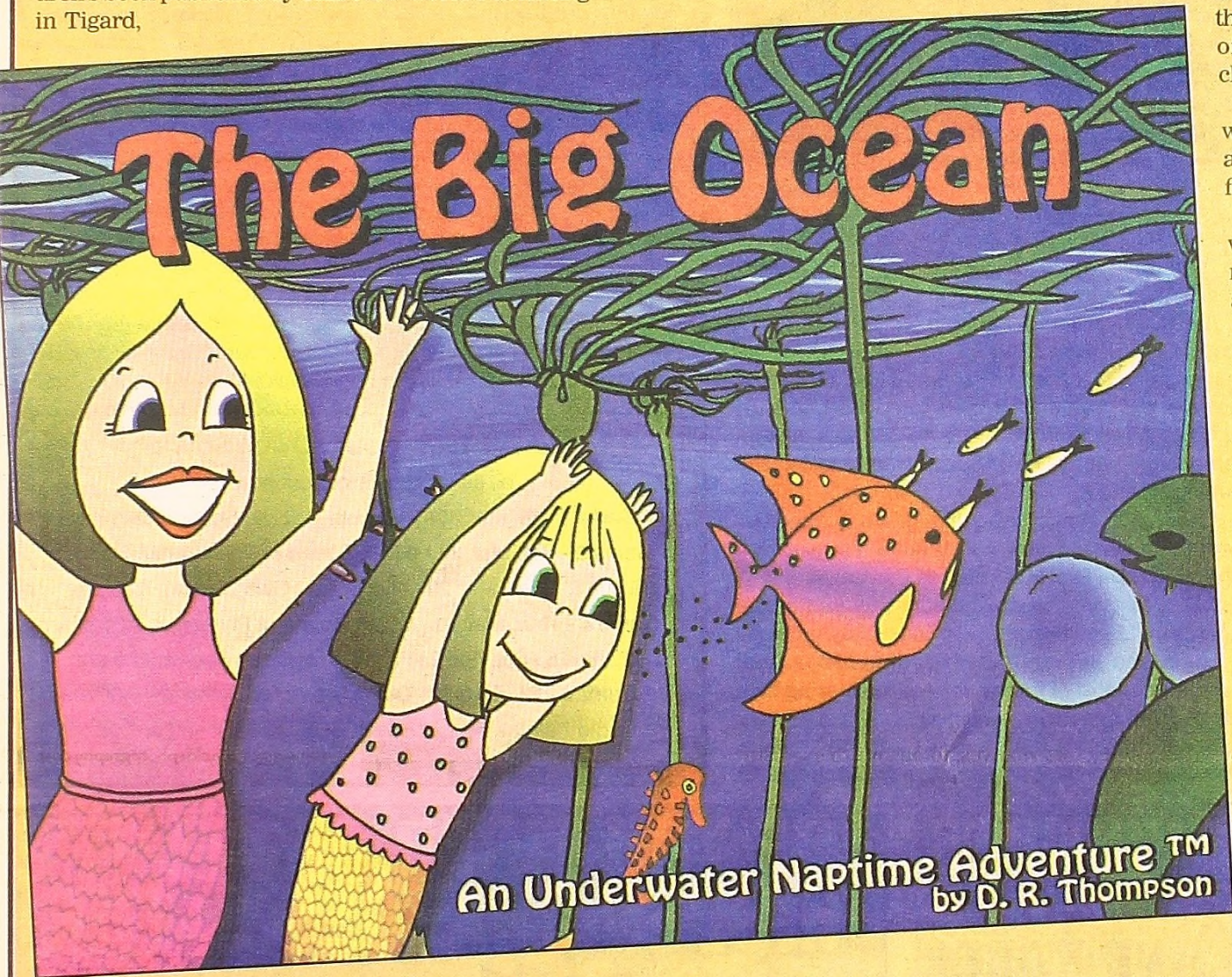
Book Review
The Big Ocean
D.R. Thompson
Reviewed by Scott Spielman

OR. Written by D. R. Thompson and illustrated by her and her husband, Dave Thompson, the book is the second of six in the Naptime Adventure Series.

It follows the adventures of the pair after they – while dreaming during a nap – grow fins and decide to take a swim in the nearby ocean. Told in rhymes, the story introduces them to several different types of sea creatures, which are illustrated in bold, cheerful colors.

The rhymes are a bit forced, at times, and I would have liked to find a little more information about the sea dwellers – but that's what parents are for, I guess.

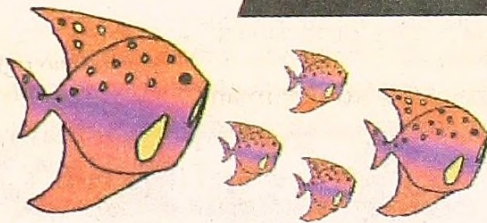
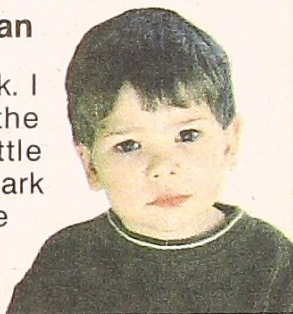
Children will mostly likely enjoy the splashy artwork as they point out and (hopefully) identify the many critters that grace the page. The book itself is an easy read, too.



Kid's Corner

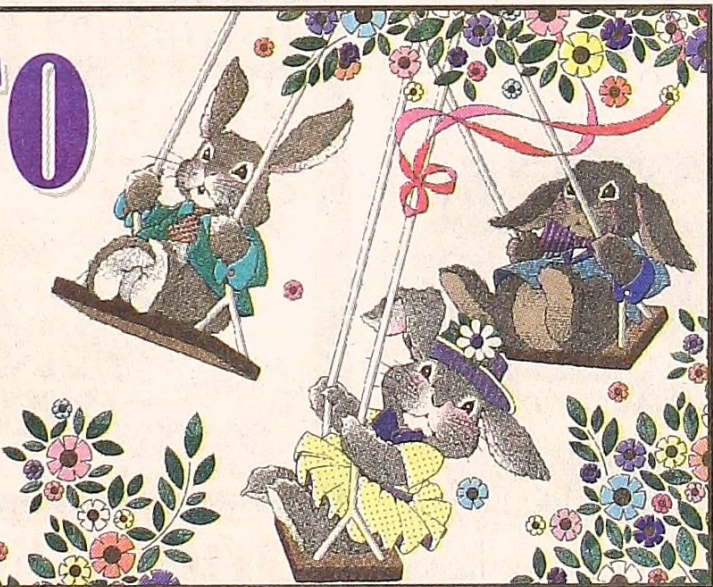
By Henry Spielman

This is a fine book. I like the part with the sharks and the little gray crabs. The shark was really scary. The sea turtle was neat, too.



Editors note: Henry Spielman, a 4-year-old Wayne resident, is a voracious reader.

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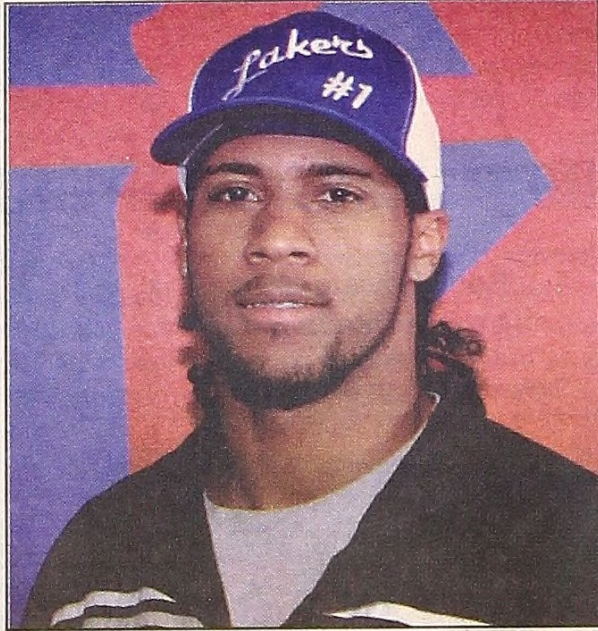
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SPORTS

Football standout pursues NFL dream

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer



Lucius Hawkins

Are you ready for some football?

Well, Lucius Hawkins is. He's ready to join the elite of the sport.

Recently, the Inkster High School and Grand Valley State University (GVSU) star sought out an agent for representation at the 2005 NFL Draft. So, come April 23, Hawkins will have the chance to join the cream of the crop and fulfill his dream of playing professional football in the NFL.

Hawkins said he knows that he is at a disadvantage because of his prep days at Inkster and because he played at a Division II school. But that's not going to stop him.

"I just want to be given a chance," he said. "I know I have the skill level and the talent and the understanding of the game to make a ball club. I know it will be a big adjustment and I'm going to have to prove myself. It won't be an easy process, either."

"The NFL is for special people - the best of the best," he added. "I will just have to be ready mentally and physically."

Physically, he's already proven himself. His success on the field can be tracked all the way back to his little league days when he played for the Woodhaven Sabers at the age of 6. He broke the little-league touchdown record when he scored 24 in the seven-game season.

When he was done with little league, bypassing middle school, he made the varsity roster at Woodhaven High School as a freshman. However, halfway through the season he transferred to

Inkster High School. There, he spent most of the time on the bench because the coach didn't know how to utilize him, Hawkins said.

But he got his chance during a grudge match against rival Robichaud High School, when the starting running back was injured. Then he showed the fans, the coaching staff, the team and, most of all, Robichaud what he could do. He was unstoppable as he ran for two touchdowns and led the team to a victory.

After his freshman year, then-coach Jerome Orr stepped down and new coach Mark Townsend, a family friend of Hawkins, entered the scene.

"He was aware of how good I was and of the records that I had broken," Hawkins said.

Townsend had an undefeated middle school team where most of the players were entering high school as freshmen the same year that he took over

See **Standout**, page 12

Whalers end regular season on high note

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

It's often said that any team wants to go into the playoffs on a winning note, and the Plymouth Whalers did just that in their final weekend of action before the second season begins.

Saturday's regular season finale looked like it could have ended badly for Plymouth, too, as the Whalers faced off against London - who came into the contest with 58 wins, the most in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL).

Plymouth trailed the Knights (59-7-2-0) after the first stanza, 2-1, as left wing and captain Tim Sestito lit the lamp for the home

team.

The Whalers dominated the second period. Plymouth tallied three unanswered goals to take a 4-1 lead into the final period. Right wing Jonas Fiedler, left wing John Vigilante and center Vaclav Meidl all got shots past London goalie Adam Dennis.

Knights center Jordan Foreman slapped the puck past Whalers netminder Justin Garay for the lone score of the third period, but it was too little, too late as Plymouth won its final regular season game, 4-3.

The Whalers will face third-seeded Owen Sound (40-18-7-3) in the opening round of the OHL playoffs.

Round 1: Plymouth-Owen Sound

The series is best four-out-of-seven:

Game 1 - Fri. Mar. 25 - Plymouth at Owen Sound, 7:30 pm.

Game 2 - Sat. Mar. 26 - Owen Sound at Plymouth, 7:30 pm.

Game 3 - Tues. Mar. 29 - Plymouth at Owen Sound, 7:00 pm.

Game 4 - Thur. Mar. 31 - Owen Sound at Plymouth, 7:30 pm.

* Game 5 - Sat. Apr. 2 - Plymouth at Owen Sound, 7:30 pm.

* **Game 6 - Sun. Apr. 3 - Owen Sound at Plymouth, 6:00 pm.**

* Game 7 - Tues. Apr. 5 - Plymouth at Owen Sound at 7:00 pm.

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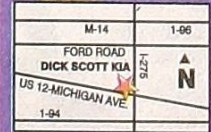
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Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Holt's 6-foot-6 250-pound center Paul Crosby countered with a three-point play to extend their lead, but Gibson answered with another triple to keep the Eagles in it, 60-63. Holt had a chance to put the game away but point guard Tyler Reed missed two from the line. Then Smith hit for two to make it 62-63 with 35 sec-



Romulus, down one point, gained possession and called a time out with 8.5 seconds left on the clock. On the inbounds pass Smith connected with senior for-

Holt's Ty Motley was fouled as soon as he caught the inbound pass, which left 5.3 seconds left.

Romulus' senior guard Geryn Reese had a chance to tie the game at the buzzer but his attempted triple bounced off the front of the rim.

Gibson scored a game high 20 points and Smith added 19 for Romulus in the effort. El-Amin scored 18 for Holt and Crosby 17.

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Standout - Inkster man is hopeful as he prepares for NFL draft

FROM PAGE 10

coaching the varsity team. Hawkins, a sophomore, soon became the heart of the young Inkster team.

"He was a kid that every coach wishes for," said Townsend. "He was a hard worker and very dedicated. He proved that hard work pays off."

"It would be an honor to coach someone that went on to the next level," he added. "If he doesn't, well, he made it in my book. He's an outstanding kid on and off the field; a great community leader."

Hawkins played double duty at running back and defensive back. He made his biggest splash in his senior year where he ran for nearly 1,600 yards and 23 touchdowns. On defense he notched 95 tackles and seven interceptions as a cornerback.

The stellar performance on both sides of the field helped Inkster get into the playoffs for the first time in school history.

"We didn't win, but it was memorable," Hawkins said. "We grew together as a team and put the pieces together that year; we knew what level we were at and we ended up with the best record in school history."

As a junior he earned all-conference honors, was selected all-state as a senior and was a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Student Council. His high school accolades earned him a four-year scholarship to play football at

GVSU, where he also earned a degree in criminal justice.

The 22-year-old phenom continued to excel at GVSU. He completely changed over from offense to defense and spent time playing at both outside linebacker and defensive back during his 4 1/2 years at GVSU.

"In high school everyone wants to play offense and get the stats," he said about the switch. "But I realized that I would rather do the hitting rather than be receiving the hits."

Going from high school to col-

lege was a tougher adjustment, though.

"After the first month I wanted to go home," he said. "I didn't think that college was for me but after the first semester I got adjusted."

It was a good thing, too - for the football program. Although he was red-shirted as a freshman during the 2000 season he definitely made his mark at the collegiate level.

During his career there, the Lakers went 51-5 and won two of their three NCAA Division II

National Championships appearances.

In 2001, Hawkins was named defensive player of the week - a title that he would earn several times in his four years - for the two interceptions, one sack and five tackles he made in one game. And wasn't even considered the starter, yet.

The team went to the national championship game that year, but lost.

After that, he was moved from linebacker to safety during the 2002 season. It didn't matter. As a

sophomore he earned his second varsity letter when he started all 14 games and won his first championship.

The Lakers repeated the following year and Hawkins earned Honorable Mention All-American, Honorable All-GLIAC, named GVSU Defensive most valuable player and Defensive player of the week. In the championship game against North Dakota he recorded seven tackles and made the defensive play of the game when he forced a fumble and returned it 59 yards

to set up the game-winning touchdown.

In his senior year, he led the team with six interceptions - one he returned for a touchdown. He recorded 65 tackles: 32 solo, seven for a loss of yards and one sack. He also broke up eight plays, forced two fumbles and recovered one, all in 12 games.

"I think it's just the type of personality that I have," Hawkins said of his big play ability. "I'm not loud or anything like that. I'm just patient and let the game come to me."

Earlier in the month he took part in his first pro workout day at GVSU where the Detroit Lions, Baltimore Ravens and Philadelphia Eagles watched him run drills.

"The feedback that I got was all positive," said Wade Cook, the quality control officer for IMA, the agency that represents Hawkins. "He's very athletic, very professional and very pious. He's very grounded and that will take him a long way."

IMA also represents Tyrone Wheatly, formerly of the Oakland Raiders, among others.

Hawkins has other workouts planned this month at Eastern Michigan University and possibly the University of Michigan, where more NFL teams will get a sneak peek at him.

So if the name Lucius Hawkins is called out on April 23rd or 24th, get used to it - it could be a name heard every Sunday.

"We didn't win, but it was memorable. We grew together as a team and put the pieces together that year; we knew what level we were at and we ended up with the best record in school history."

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Sometimes it takes a little longer to learn

I was here to visit my daughter, Anastasia. I also came to Los Angeles to escape the dull, depressing gray of Motown winters.

Wouldn't you know it, from the moment I arrived it's been raining or overcast. Well, almost. There have been a few hours of hit and miss sunshine, but for the most part it's been Michigan winter gray at 55 degrees.

It took me three days to realize I'd made a mistake... a big mistake.

Annie has a small two-bedroom apartment and a roommate, so not wanting to impose, Mr. Smarty found a place in Hollywood and tried to settle in. I was miserable.

Walking into the rented studio apartment, I was immediately hit by that desperate alone-in-a-city-of-millions feeling. There was a bed, two director chairs, (Hollywood, remember?) an old desk and a futon. The floors were nice though—hardwood.

Muscle spasms in my lower back started. I stretched for 10 minutes, but it didn't

help. By noon, my entire lower back was locked up. I was miserable.

It got worse the next day. Dirty gray sky, cold, and down on the street my car with a \$40 parking ticket. This cursed city with three to four signs per post, all with different parking rules.

I'd take a bath to relax the back muscles. No hot water. The boiler in the building broke.

I drove to my daughter's to take a shower. Annie was at work, but her roommate, Mandy, was working on a computer graphics design for school. She'd created a pink space dog and asked how I liked it. Before I knew it, we were kicking ideas around. It felt good.

On Wednesday morning, I was still miserable and alone. Annie works 12 hours a day, my back is killing me, it was overcast and, well, you know.

"Knock it off, Jer," I said to myself. "You're always showing others how to think differently, so take action."

But, I couldn't get it together... couldn't figure it out.

Then it came. At home, I work alone, live alone and during the winter tend to isolate. I'd come here and with some dumb thinking had created the same environment for myself.

I would check out of this place—a beautiful place, now—and go stay at my daughter's where two young creative minds were at work and life.

I checked my e-mail before sitting down to share this with you and found the following.

"Good morning, I hate the thought of you being in the same town for a short period of time and not being able to see you or give you a hug. I spoke to Mandy and she has no problem at all with you staying here. I

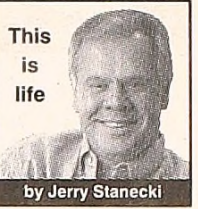
hope you are feeling better and slept well. I love you very much. Hopefully, you will be at my apartment when I get home at night.

Annie"

Great minds? You bet. Some of us just take a little longer to figure it out.

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To receive a thought for the week or contact Jerry please go to: www.jerrystanecki.com



Legislation may aid townships

State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton), recently announced that the House unanimously approved his legislation allowing smaller townships to contract with county road commissions to preserve local roads, which means, the bill will now go to the Senate.

According to LaJoy, the bill will lower the population thresholds for a township to be eligible to work with the county from 40,000 people to 15,000. This change would make approximately 50 townships

eligible. It will also allow townships to negotiate up to 90 percent of the county funds allocated for the project.

"This bill will allow more local municipalities, like Van Buren and Canton townships, to be eligible to contract with the county if they choose to," he said. "I am pleased my colleagues have acted on this bill so early in the session and I hope the Senate moves quickly to help our local townships improve their roads."

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1. Obituaries

SALLEY, Richard Irving, 74 of Johannesburg, MI, formerly of Tecumseh, MI and Wayne, MI, died suddenly on February 25, 2005 while vacationing in Cancun, Mexico. He was born November 12, 1930 in Wayne, to Raymond and Evelyn Salley. He graduated from Wayne High School in 1948. He served as a mechanic in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict and the Air National Guard until 1957. He was retired from the Ford Motor Company where he worked for 40 years. He married Doris Wilson in October, 1982, and she survives. He is also survived by a son, Christopher (Janette) Salley of Lincoln Park; two daughters, Vickie (Randy) Karcher and Jan (Gerry) Cline of Tecumseh; a sister, Elaine (Anthony) Carnacchi of Ypsilanti; six grand-children, two great grand-children, and several nephews and nieces. His parents and one brother, Lester, preceded him in death. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service is being planned

for June 18, 2005. Donations/contributions may be made to the Northern Michigan Hospital Foundation (Cancer Research), 416 Connable Ave., Petoskey, MI 49770

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or 877-work 4-QC

The Journal Newspapers
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will train the right
candidates. Must have
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part-time positions
available.

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The Journal Newspapers
35540 Michigan Ave W
Wayne MI 48184
Attention: Advertising
Director
Rob Young
or fax to (734)729-3746.

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Custom Hybrid and
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Great selection/prices.
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Specializing in Puggles
and Mini-Boxers.
Visit us in person at:
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Ypsilanti, or
Visit our website at:
www.petcitypets.com

59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale.
On Thursday, April 14,
2005 at 11:00 AM, at U-
Store-It, 28266 Ecorse
Road, Romulus, MI 48174
with reserve, will sell by
the unit to the highest bid
by CASH all rights, title
and interest to the follow-
ing property of:

Mary Anne Kaloz-B4:
Furniture;

Scott Moos-D9: Boxes, fur-
niture, dishwasher;

John Williams-D44: Bags,
boxes, totes;

Eva Lee Hamilton-E56:
Bags, boxes, furniture,
dolly

Notice of Public Sale.
Pursuant to State Law, a
sale will be held on March
29, 2005 at 1:00 PM on the
following units:

C1-3 Jason Mausolf-
Furniture, Boxes, Tools,
Microwave, TV, Stereo &
Speakers;

E-23 Susan Wallace-
Boxes, Fish tank, Golf
clubs, Lawn chair;

E-32 Microlite
Technologies-Boxes, Tools,
Furniture;

F-9 Jeffrey Speiser-Auto
parts, Motors,
Transmission

I-35 Andrea Hancock-
Boxes, Furniture

AMERICA'S BUDGET
STORAGE
40671 Joy Rd.
Canton, MI 48187
(734)459-6444

AUTO AUCTION
Howard's Towing &
Collision
35830 Van Born Rd.
Wayne, MI 48184
734-326-1114

March 29, 2005
1:00 PM.
All Vehicles Sold "As Is"
Cash Only

1994 Buick
1G4CW52L4RH607903

1991 Ford
1FTCR10AXMUB06567

1995 Chrysler
2C3HC56F5SH623720

1996 Ford
1FTCR10A9TTA25855

1986 Ford
1FTBR10CXGUA86712

1991 Ford
1FMDA31X6MZB69450

1987 Ford
1FMDU15N7HLA47273

1990 Pontiac
1G2AF54T4L6213978

1985 Jeep
1JCUD7429FT125563

1985 Mercury
2MEBP95F2FX631864

1991 Ford
1FAPP10J6MW246309

1993 Ford
1ZVCT20A9P5217095

1989 Dodge
2B6HB21Y5KK393755

1989 Dodge
1B7FL26X3KS058144

1991 Mercury
3MAPM10J5MR651843

1984 Chevrolet
1G1AD35P3E7175169

1991 Ford
1FTEF15Y8MNA75188

1987 Plymouth
1P3BP36D3HF193494

1995 Ford
2FMDA5148SBA53877

1978 Chevrolet
CCD148J156894

1981 American Motors
DJ5L1183757

Transcraft
1TTF45201P1038205

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
AUCTION

On MARCH 29, 2005 the
Westland Police
Department will conduct
public auctions of
impounded abandoned
vehicles. The first auction
will begin promptly at
10:am at Westland Service
Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill,
Westland, MI, County of
Wayne, where the follow-
ing vehicles will be offered
for sale to the highest
bidder:

1988 Buick Skyhawk
4Dr Gray
1G4J551K5JK418745

1989 Honda Accord
4Dr Blue
1HGCA553XKA120350

1989 Ford Cr. Victoria
4Dr Red
2FABP74F8KX190698

1984 Jeep Wagoneer
StWgn Bronze
1JCWC7555ET033059

1995 Ford Escort
2Dr Green
1FASP1287SW215569

1991 Chevy Caprice
4Dr Maroon
1G1BN53E7MW150018

1989 Ford Econoline
Van Gray
1FDKE37G1KHB62864

The second auction will
begin promptly at 11:00am
at Westland Car Care,
6375 Hix Rd., Westland,
MI, County of Wayne,
where the following vehi-
cles will be offered for sale
to the highest bidder:

1987 Saab 900S
4Dr Blue
YS3AS35D9H2006559

1975 Chrysler Imperial
4Dr Blue
YM43T5C134848

1995 Geo Metro
2Dr Red
2C1MR2269S6748709

1997 Ford Probe
2Dr Black
1ZVLT20AXV5132490

1987 Dodge Dakota
PKTrk Gray
1B7GN14M2HS362284

1996 Plymouth Breeze
4Dr Gray
1P3EJ46C0TN247845

1993 Ford Taurus
4Dr White
1FALP52U3PG131128

1992 Ford Escort
4Dr Silver
3FAPP13J5NR116439

1987 Ford F-150
Pk Trk Blue
2FTDF15Y5HCA99990

All vehicles are sold in "as
is" condition. Bidding on
all vehicles will start at the
amount due for towing and
storage. Vehicles may be
deleted from this list at any
time prior to the start of the
auction.

AUTO AUCTION
J & M TOWING
8964 Inkster Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174
(734) 946-4101

Thursday, March 31,
2005 @ 11:00am

1986 CHEVROLET
1G8DM15Z1GB207542
STA-WAGON 05-926
1993 FORD TEMPO
2FACP36X4PB171671
4 DOOR 05-956
1989 FORD

1FTFE24Y0KHB07092
VAN 05-1006
1991 DODGE SHADOW
1B3XP24DXMN541053
2 DOOR 05-1016
1993 FORD

1FAPP15J8PW376086
STA-WAGON 05-1017
1997 FORD TAURUS
1FALP53S6VG284631
4 DOOR 05-1040
1993 PONTIAC GRAND
PRIX

1G2WJ54X1PF276453
4 DOOR 05-1051
1991 BUICK

1G4HP54CXMH479465
4 DOOR 05-1165
1995 OLDSMOBILE
1G3NL55M3SM304361
4 DOOR 05-1202
1989 FORD TAURUS

1FABP54Y0KA219383
4 DOOR 05-1270
1997 MERCURY SABLE
1MELM53S9VG628924
4 DOOR 05-1367
1989 OLDSMOBILE

2G3AJ51R8K2448127
4 DOOR 05-1393
1994 FORD TEMPO
1FAPP36X1RK158094
4 DOOR 05-1394
1994 FORD TAURUS

1FALP52U0RG235370
4 DOOR 05-1395
1992 FORD
1FMDA11U7NZB56248
STA-WAGON 05-1403
1991 FORD

1FACP53U4MG156498
4 DOOR 05-1415
1977 OLDSMOBILE
3V69K7M360489
4 DOOR 05-1419
1992 DODGE

2B4GH2534NR667508
STA-WAGON 05-1420
1990 FORD
1FAPP36X6LK179286
4 DOOR 05-1421

6. Legal Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR ANNAPOLIS POINTE - PHASE 1 A CITY OF INKSTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

BIDS DUE: April 21, 2005

2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME

The City of Inkster, Michigan will receive bids through their Construction Manager, Crosswinds Communities/InterNodal Concepts, Inc. at the Office of the Inkster City Clerk, 2121 Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141 until 2:00 p.m., Local Time on Thursday, April 21, 2005 for the Phase 1 reconstruction of infrastructure for the Annapolis Pointe Redevelopment Project.

The City of Inkster has retained the Developer of the single-family homes, Crosswinds Communities/InterNodal Concepts, Inc. to be the Construction Manager for the infrastructure improvements.

Project Site: The Project site consists of two separate areas, Area 1 and Area 2. Area 1 is bounded on the north by the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Wayland Court and Crystal Court, on the east by Irene Avenue, on the south by the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Yorkville Court and Bridgeport Court, and on the west by Northland Street. Area 2 is bounded on the north by the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Annapolis Avenue, on the east by Irene Avenue, on the south by Annapolis Avenue, and on the west by Northland Street. Area 2 is currently not included in the scope of work.

Scope of Work: The work to be performed is infrastructure reconstruction in the public right of way within the Phase 1 project areas. The work includes demolition, excavation, erosion and sediment control, installation of new sewers (sanitary & storm), water mains & service leads, removal and replacement of roadways pavement, construction of detention ponds, and other miscellaneous work.

Qualification Statement and Bid Security: Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Qualification and Experience Statement and certified check, money order or a satisfactory Bid Bond in the amount of at least five (5) percent of the total bid, drawn payable to the City of Inkster as security that if the Proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the Contract and deliver acceptable proof of Insurance, Performance & Labor and Materials Bonds within seven (7) calendar days after the award of the Contract. The sealed proposal, qualification and experience statement and Bid Bond shall be delivered to the office of the City Clerk. All proposals shall be sealed and properly labeled with the project name, bidder name and the date and time of the opening, and shall be addressed as follows:

Ms. Jackie Beaudry
City Clerk
City of Inkster
2121 Inkster Road
Inkster, MI 48141

Bidding Documents: Beginning March 23, 2005 copies of the Bid Package documents may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, Ms. Jackie Beaudry, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. The Bid Package documents may also be examined at the Office of Giffles-Webster Engineers, Inc. 407 E. Fort Street, Suite 600, Detroit; Construction Association of Michigan, Dodge Reports and Reed Construction Data. The Bid Package documents may be obtained from the offices of Crosswinds Communities, 41050 Vincent Court, Novi, Michigan, Contact: Ms. Jennifer Fisher upon payment of \$35.00 per set (non-refundable). Please make all checks payable to "City of Inkster."

Pre-Bid Meeting: A pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2005 2:00 p.m. local time at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt Road. Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting and tour the site to familiarize themselves with the project.

Award: Proposals shall remain firm for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the bid opening. The City of Inkster reserves the right to accept any or all proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the interest of the City of Inkster.

Local Contracting Requirements: The Contractor shall comply with, and abide by all requirements of the City of Inkster, Ordinance No. 603, Local, Minority and Female Business Enterprise Opportunity Ordinance (LMFBE Ordinance) and Ordinance Nos. 693 and 760 (ordinance amending Ordinance No. 603) that have been included in the bid documents.

Ms. Jackie Beaudry
City Clerk

Publish: March 24, 2005

89. Apartments for Rent

OAKLAND MANOR APARTMENTS
Inkster-Adult Community • Modern Apartments

\$495/mo. Over 640 Sq. Ft. 1 Bedroom
(Limited Time Offer)
\$99.00 Security Deposit w/approved credit

Central Air & Heat • Garbage Disposal
• Large Walk-In Closets
Ample Off-Street Parking • Laundry Facilities

• 1 Block n. of Michigan Avenue • 15 minutes
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Short Term Lease Available.

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Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$560*

Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment
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• Minutes from Eastern MI University,
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3 Bks. South of Belleville Rd.
(Main St.) On Huron River Drive

For Details Call
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Come in from the Cold...
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We have up to two months FREE rent.

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• Centrally located to
the Airport, Highways
& Shopping

33095 Forest, Wayne, MI

734 326-7800

South of Michigan Ave. Just off of Vanoy

1995 MERCURY SABLE
1MELM5847SG605325
STA-WAGON 05-1422
1987 DODGE
1B3BD36D5HF153699
4 DOOR 05-1568
1995 STRICK
1S12E9530SE396383 05-1574
1998 CHEVROLET
1GNDM15Z8JB241546
STA-WAGON 05-1592
1999 FORD TAURUS
1FAFP53S8XG294013
4 DOOR 05-1610
1992 FORD ESCORT
3FAPP13J2NR159670
4 DOOR 05-A-127
1997 CHEVROLET
MONTE CARLO
2G1WW12M6V9134726
2 DOOR 05-A-131
1994 CHEVROLET
SPORTVAN
1GBEG25K4RF143832
STA-WAGON 05-A-156
1998 FORD ESCORT
3FAKP1134WR202700
2 DOOR 05-A-173

60. Misc. Sales

7 Days, 6 Nights Disney
area vacation, Paid \$600
Must sell-\$199
Call 734-473-0433

66. Landscape/
Nurseries

Landscape equipment
Package deal includes
trailer, ZTR and walk-
behind
\$9,500
Call 313-562-2384

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and
weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave,
HBO. Call 734-721-1220,
Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100.
Fairlane in Novi 248-347-
9999

BELLEVILLE
Furnished, utilities
and refrigerator
included. \$70 week
734-699-3232

CANTON DAYS INN
Five Sunburst Rating!
Low Daily, Weekly, and
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Free deluxe breakfast
Guest Laundry
Microfridge in all rooms
All local calls free
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internet.
40500 Michigan Ave.
Exit 22 off I-275
734-721-5200

ROOM FOR rent, Wayne,
\$85/weekly, all utilities
included. Call 734-721-
0232.

Room for Rent, private
entrance, cable TV, fully
furnished,
Van Born/Wayne Rd. area,
\$95/week, \$95 deposit.
Call 734-722-4299

88. Duplexes
For Rent

WAYNE
2225 Delton Ct.,
Wildwood/Palmer area 3
Bedroom, shed,
\$675/month, \$325 Security
Deposit
Call 734-522-1512

WAYNE
Victorian Style
2 Bedroom flat
No pets. \$650/month
plus security.
Do your own painting
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family homes. Section
8 welcome. Lead safe
units available.
Professional full-time
management.
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89. Apartments
For Rent

1 Bedroom efficiency
apartment in Wayne.
All utilities paid.
\$150 / week
Call: 734-729-5770

St. David Senior
Co-op Apartments at
44841 Ann Arbor Rd.,
Plymouth, MI will be
accepting names for their
wait list beginning April 1,
2005. Names will be
accepted in order by date
and time of initial applica-
tion. This senior building
has 42 one-bedroom
apartments including
some designed for the
mobility impaired (under
62 yrs.), beautifully updat-
ed and ready for occupa-
ncy. Please call 800-593-
3052 to be first to get your
name on our application
list. A member of CSI
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Services with over 40
years experience in senior
housing. View us on our
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No pets
Great for singles &
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Wayne, Near Wayne Road
- Nice, Clean
1 Bedroom - Heat, Water &
Appliances included - No
Pets \$475 and up
Call: 313-561-9818

92. Business Places
For Rent

Romulus on Ecorse Rd.
between Inkster &
Middlebelt. Approximately
1,000 square. ft. of office
space and 2,000 square.
ft. of shop space, ample
parking and yard.
Available April 1, 2005.
Call 734-637-2499

96. Houses
For Rent

INKSTER
Near school, garage
\$575

INKSTER
3 Bedroom, Sec. 8 ok
Water paid
\$650

24 Available from
\$575-\$750

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PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

Romulus
Brick Ranch
1300 square.ft.,
3 Bedroom, attached
garage, AC, fenced yard,
all appliances Option to
buy available
\$1100/month

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Canton, MI 48188

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in the
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ROMULUS
Ranch, air, garage
\$800

BELLEVILLE
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ment, garage
\$980

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PROFESSIONALS
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Romulus
Very Clean
3 Bedroom near I-94 &
Wayne Rd., washer/dryer,
2.5 car garage,
large yard
\$890/month
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734-669-5872

WAYNE
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Option 2 Buy
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WAYNE
Garage, air,
Pets negotiable
\$650

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

WESTLAND
Garage, fenced 4 pets
\$650

WESTLAND
3 Bedroom, garage,
Option 2 Buy
\$750

19 Available from
\$600-\$850

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

106. Houses For
Sale

INKSTER
29549 Hazelwood
For Sale or Lease
3 Bedrooms, full basement
partially finished, 1 car
garage
Buy \$110,000 or
Lease \$780.00/month
Call 734-722-4749

Inkster
Wayne/Westland Schools
725 Sunningdale
Bungalow-3 bedroom,
1 bath, full basement
Many new updates.
\$950/month
734-483-4977

ROMULUS
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3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, appli-
ances, 1067 square ft.
beautiful kitchen, central
air, basement, newer win-
dows, built-in microwave,
carpeted
throughout, newly painted,
Great Investment Property!
Approved buyers only
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113. Wanted Real
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117. Trucks & Vans

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1999 Ford F250 V10 4X4
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118. Freebies

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and get
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David C. Brown, Manager
Belleville 734-697-4500

Crane
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ROMULUS
734-941-9200
WILLIAM A. CRANE

Harry J. Will
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34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 721-5600
Tom Lynch • Manager Also in Livonia
Jim Henley • Director & Redford

UHT FUNERAL HOME
Harold Rediske Jr., Director
Harold Rediske II, Robert J. Gilbert,
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Celebration of parenting urged by local women

Andrea King
Staff Writer

March is not only the month to celebrate the arrival of spring, but also a time to celebrate parenting. Cathy Bandy and Kim Nofz, parents from the Van Buren Public School District, want to celebrate the importance of parenting.

"The idea is to get the schools and the community involved together to celebrate parenting and to hopefully get it to carry through all year, every year," said Bandy.

Through the help of Parenting Awareness Michigan (PAM)—an organization that provides guidance, free materials, resources and technical assistance for developing parenting skills—Bandy said it's possible.

According to Luanne Beaudry, Parenting Awareness Michigan coordinator, the organization designates the entire month to people raising children.

"We want to emphasize the importance of effective parenting by nurturing children to become healthy, caring and contributing citizens by drawing public attention and promoting local events," she said. "The

beauty of it is: it can be fit to each community's own local needs."

Bandy said she would like to see a Belleville group formed through the No Child Left Behind committee.

"Parents want to be good parents, but it's more effective when the whole community comes together to have the resources to do so," said Bandy. "We're in a time when there's so much going on, so we need to get the information out there. Parenting is a tough job and the purpose of this group would be to cover all the bases, provide all the information available and be supportive."

Bandy, a foster parent, said PAM concepts have helped her out in several ways.

"There are so many issues we face as parents—drugs, safety, nutrition, medical problems—and this will teach how to deal with them," she said.

The statewide campaign encourages local collations to get area businesses, churches and government involved, as well as the parents. Ideas such as dinner events, an information hotline and parenting resource fairs are just a few options, according to Beaudry.

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR ELECTION - TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS & LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN- WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Monday, April 4, 2005 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

In Person:

- At the township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and for warding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

JOANNIE D. PAYNE, CLERK
734.699.8909
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111

Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

Note:

A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the May 3, 2005 Van Buren Public School & Lincoln Consolidated School Elections is Saturday, April 30, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: March 24, 2005
March 31, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 15, 2005

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Clerk Payne and Trustee Jahr. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Deputy Director Averill, Secretary Cline and an audience of seven (7).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Hart moved, Herman seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of February 28, 2005 as presented. Carried.

Herman moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2005 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Treasurer Budd announced the birth of her new grandson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Herman seconded to adopt Resolution 2005-12 the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant project for restrooms at Van Buren Park and French Landing Park. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to approve the option to renew the Lawn Maintenance Contract with Pioneer Landscaping for the 2005 mowing season in an amount not to exceed \$78,100 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the contract with Davenport Brothers Construction to build the Senior Activity Garden at Quirk Park at a cost not to exceed \$172,272 and to authorize the Supervisor and the Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the March 15, 2005 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the February 2005 Public Safety and 2004 Environmental Commission Annual Reports received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: On March 25th administrative offices at Township Hall will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

The Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 3, 2005 has been canceled due to the Election on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 where voters will choose school board members in both Van Buren and Lincoln school districts.

On Saturday, April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the Huron River Watershed Council and Van Buren Township are hosting a "Living on the Edge Workshop" for lakefront property owners at Van Buren Township Hall. To pre-register contact the Jo Latimore at 734.769.5971.

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival will be hosting an open entertainment audition for potential festival performers on Sunday, March 20th from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express located on the I-94 North Service Drive. For more information contact the festival office at 734.697.3137.

Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, April 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus. For more information contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at 734.326.3936.

The March 17th Historical Society Program has been canceled due to Museum Director Wilson's absence.

The annual cemetery cleaning will begin on March 19, 2005 and will run through March 26, 2005 at the four township cemeteries. New items may be displayed beginning March 27, 2005. The four township cemeteries are Tyler, Otisville, Denton and Soop. For further information contact the DPW Leader, Jeff Fondaw at 734.699.8921 extension 228.

Marshmallow Drop will be held Saturday March 19, 2005 with a rain day of March 20, 2005. The first drop will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Quirk Park Softball Field. Prior to the drop there will be an all you can eat pancake breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Community Services Gym. There are still spaces available in the summer camp programs. For further information please call 734.699.8921.

The Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind Township Hall.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A Huron River Drive resident inquired about the length of time a home remodeling project can take? Supervisor King stated this is a statewide issue. Director Kelley stated the ordinance department has been monitoring this project and as long as a current remodeling permit is active it is legal. He further stated that if the permit lapses then the township can issue a ticket for blight.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Herman seconded to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne,
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: March 24, 2005

Educator named 'Athena' winner

Scott Spielman
Editor

Charlotte Sherman, deputy superintendent of educational services for the Wayne-Westland Community School District, said she had already received enough recognition for her service to the community.

Sherman, who has worked with the district for more than 30 years, was awarded the annual Athena Award last week for those efforts. She was selected from a pool of 11 nominees.

"It was an honor just to be nominated," she said. "There were some outstanding women nominated."

The Athena Award honors businesses and professionals who have made a commitment to provide assistance, mentorship and encouragement to women in the community. It's handed out regionally, but is part of a national non-profit organization.

This year the Westland Community Foundation and the Women of Westland joined forces to put on the program, a chocolate fantasy ball that took place March 12 at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

"It was just a spectacular night," Sherman said. "The committee did a wonderful job."

Greg Baracy, superintendent

of the Wayne-Westland School District, nominated Sherman for the award. She was either the first or second choice of everyone on the award committee.

"She is a sincere, compassionate and outright good person willing to make personal sacrifices for others and never seek recognition for herself," Baracy said. "She presents herself as a positive role model for young women, and illustrates by her accomplishments that they, too, could one day lead a major corporation or business."

Sherman holds a bachelor's degree in teaching, a master's in mathematics and an education specialist degree in educational leadership. She's a member of the Westland Local Development Finance Authority, the Westland Juvenile Justice Committee, the Martin Luther Kind Jr. Celebration Committee, the coordinator for the school district's Relay for Life team, a board member of the Wayne 100 Club and serves on the Wayne Youth Advisory Board, to name a few of her community service roles. She was honored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce as the businessperson of the year in 2003.

Sherman said she owes a lot to her colleagues in the school district and her support staff.



Nominees for the national Athena Award, above, were honored March 12 at a black tie Chocolate Fantasy Ball organized by the Women of Westland and the Westland Community Foundation. Winner Charlotte Sherman, far right, was nominated by Wayne-Westland Superintendent of Schools.

"I've just been plain lucky," she said.

She said the award was particularly special because it was her own boss that nominated her, too. She attributes part of her success to her love for her job, and the community, and she wouldn't trade that in for anything.

"I'd do it all over again," she said.



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THE SCENE

the ring



Reviewed By
Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

Filmmakers should learn to leave well enough alone

Convoluting story lines are the heart of the horror film genre: burned guys getting in teenager's nightmares, possessed dolls, etc.

People seem to have a love for these films, as millions flock to them and their sequels. The originals can be solid films, but the sequels usually leave people screaming—for a refund.

The Ring Two is not as bad as many other horror sequels, but don't look for it on the best picture nominee list at the next Academy Awards.

The film again stars Naomi Watts as news reporter Rachel Keller and an extremely scary-looking David Dorfman as her son, Aidan. Like the predecessor, the movie again begins with that terrifying videotape, the one that guarantees your death seven days after you've seen it.

Rachel and Aidan have now left Seattle for a small town, hoping to get away from the tape. But wouldn't you know it, it's soon playing in a nearby dead guy's home near theirs.

Here, though, is where the film takes its first and most admirable risk.

The movie tosses out the tape, thus abandoning the entire premise of the first film. How many times were we going to have to watch that tape and do the seven-day count-down?

What *The Ring Two* does not lose is the tape's author — young, dead, chronic-bad-hair-day-having Samara, who now wants to bond with Rachel and Aidan. She apparently wants to be a part of their family.

I can understand that in some horror flicks, the killer is able to somehow locate his or her prey. But how does a videotape make it to another part of the country. Is Blockbuster issuing Netflix accounts to the deceased now?

As with the first film, Rachel's primary goal becomes protecting Aidan. And, as with the first, this sends her on a quest for knowledge.

This leads to the exchange Rachel has with Samara's mother, played by Sissy Spacek. Spacek goes the full Monty by donning an awful wig to give a startling resemblance to Samara.

Rachel eventually rids her and her son of the little girl by—get this—going into the television and closing the lid of the well that Samara leaves to get her victims.

Most impressively, for a sequel based on a film with a pretty intricate plot, *The Ring Two* spends little time on a backstory. It assumes you know what's going on.

Based on the success and the complexity of the original, the bar may have been set a little high, though.

The Ring Two isn't a bad movie; it's just not a great movie.

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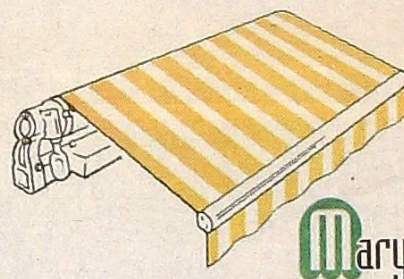
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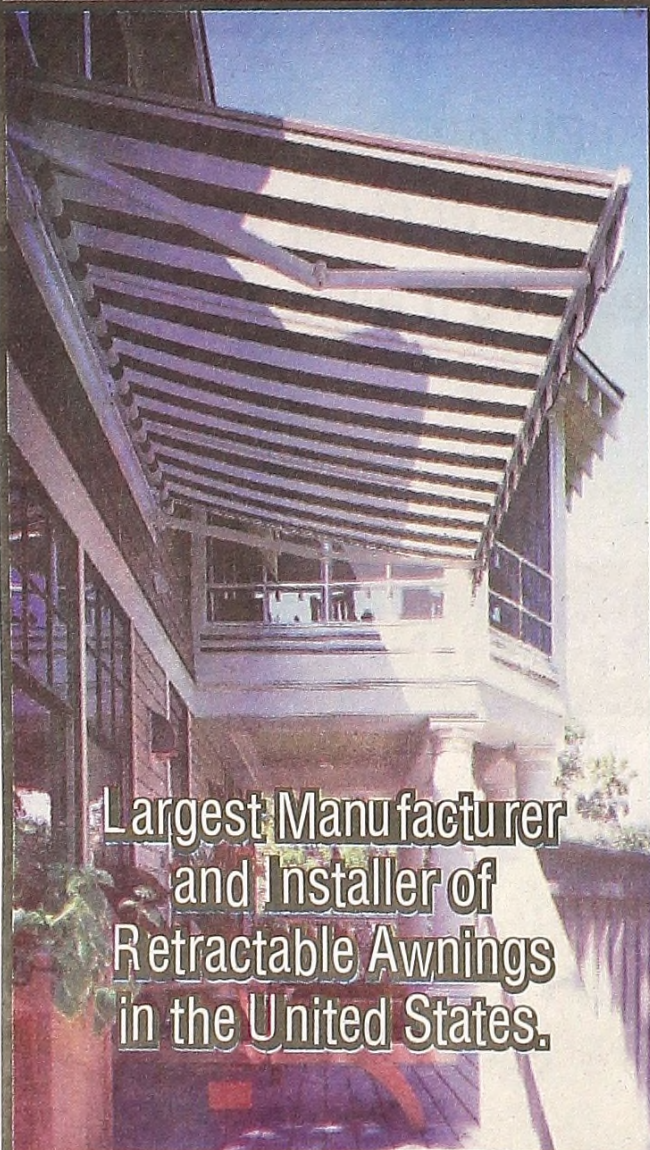
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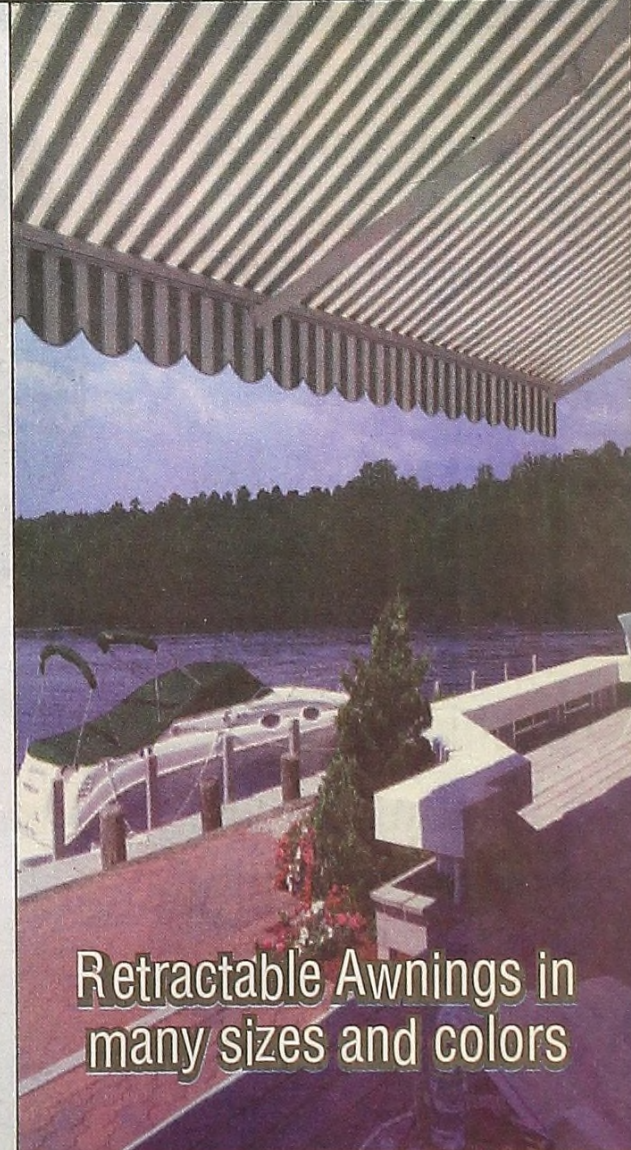
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